

From: a brody
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/29/01 5:31pm
Subject: My feelings on the Microsoft Monopoly

Your honor,

I agree with the judges before who have claimed that Microsoft has maintained a monopoly. By maintaining a monopoly they violate the Sherman Act, and current remedies do nothing to solve the monopoly. Any remedy that lets Microsoft get away with less than losing half their value for practicing this monopoly, and doesn't let other operating systems to prosper in the face of Microsoft does not do justice for America. Microsoft has gained a 95% market share on all computers today, and even on the 5% is allowed to produce the only Office software package for business, namely their Microsoft Office.

Their Internet Explorer Browser even on the Macintosh platform is the default browser because they bullied web developers into supporting standards that Netscape and other browser developers can't develop for because of plugins and standards specific to Internet Explorer, Microsoft's web browser. Microsoft has corrupted a standard developed by Netscape by not supporting some of the Netscape standards, and introducing some of their own, by making Javascript into their own JScript standard. A look at Javascript the Definitive Guide by David Flanagan (ISBN 1-56592-392-8, O'Reilly Publishing, 1998) page 4 will reveal that there are 2 Javascript 1.2 standards, one for Netscape, and one for Internet Explorer. Pages 417-749 will show just how divergent these standards can get in Javascript 1.2.

They have gone as far as to remove Java from their latest operating system, Windows XP. Java was the last hope to make an independent system for internet browsing that doesn't depend on platform. Now with Microsoft no longer installing Java, the home user will have to download it for themselves if they want to. Most do not know how to do this. They must continue to install Java by default. They also should conform to the same Java standards Sun Microsystems has created by making their Java standard. In numerous cases they don't and when they don't it makes internet developers write Java code that doesn't work on all browsers. If you were to join <http://chat.yahoo.com/> on Apple Computer's Mac OS X with Internet Explorer you get a Java error. Yet on Internet Explorer on a Windows system it works just fine. Internet Explorer for Mac OS 9 is able to join that chatroom without a problem. Why does this happen? Consistant standards even on the standard creating platform haven't been set by a variety of Javas on the market. Microsoft made their own Java Virtual Machine (or engine) for their own Windows browsers that accepts its own code in conjunction with ActiveX. ActiveX is a Microsoft standard which has not been ported over completely to other

platforms. This is a monopolistic practice since it forces people to use their operating system if they want to be compatible with the web.

To make matters worse, Microsoft's monopolistic practices have exposed businesses to numerous computer viruses by their being such a big target, and having closed source code. Holes in their database engine have been reported exposing numerous internet databases to potential viruses have been reported on:

<http://www.cnn.com/2001/TECH/ptech/12/27/sql.holes.idg/index.html>

And their Windows XP operating system which was billed their most secure system ever, now is found to have a serious hole letting any hacker take control of their system by the FBI on:

<http://www.idg.net/go.cgi?id=621579>

That's two serious security holes in one week exposing 95% of the internet population to potential data damage because Microsoft has not opened their source code to developers to find the holes before the operating system hits the streets. If they had done that, most likely these holes would have been found and plugged before the public had to worry about them. And how many of those members of the public will read those two news stories and know how to plug the holes themselves. Microsoft should offer free CDs to update the operating system with security patches. By making themselves 95% of the market, more hackers have found the holes in their operating system and exploited them as opposed to other operating systems by a ratio of 50,000 to one. The bigger you are, the harder you fall. You've probably heard of Code Red, Melissa, and NIMDA viruses. They have cost industry billions. Yet Microsoft does not pay? Each of those viruses did not affect Apple Macintosh or Linux systems, but did affect Microsoft based systems exclusively.

All we ask is you make remedies that make Microsoft no more than 50% of the market in operating systems, office applications, and web browsers.

Microsoft should pay developers to make competing software in each of these fields, and not get money back for those payments. That's the only way to balance the computer market. Making Microsoft pay schools \$1 billion is a drop in the bucket, especially when it will be Microsoft's software the current agreement is calling for schools to buy. In fact that \$1 billion should not be forwarded to any Microsoft software. It should only be used to rebuild schools and the rebuilding should go to hiring new teachers, and buying books for schools that need them. And it really should be more like \$50 billion. If you are going to make a monetary punishment, make it cash with the allowance it will not be paid on computing. Unless

the computing it is used to pay for is a non-Microsoft system.

Apple Macintosh has been the system of choice for schools, and is cross platform, and now is more compatible to other computers than even Microsoft thanks to <http://www.connectix.com/> VirtualPC software. An Apple Macintosh can run 12 operating systems simultaneously thanks to this. A website called <http://www.macwindows.com/> devotes its efforts to finding additional crossplatform solutions. To help in the migration of people away from Microsoft these solutions should be considered to ease the migration so it is less painful.

Additional reasons to not let Microsoft be the sole provider of operating systems is that it costs more to maintain than any other. A very good report here explains the cost benefits of not using Microsoft based software exclusively:

http://homepage.mac.com/mac_vs_pc/Intro.html

As you can see if people saw Apple Macintosh as an alternative, which it really is to running Microsoft based software applications and operating systems, then Microsoft's monopoly would weaken to the point that it wouldn't hurt the market anymore. It wouldn't cause the lack of software development to proceed. It is time to encourage a crossplatform world. It is time make Microsoft no longer the rule in software.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Abraham Brody

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Check my internet portal of over 1000 links verified monthly,
over 200 Macintosh, and over 200 Cartography, GIS, and Mapping links.

<http://www.index-site.com/>